

IN THE BEGINNING...

Fittingly, on what is expected to be the last-ever typewriter ribbon I plan to use on a typewriter--at least regularly--it's time to go back to exactly how it all started. In this case, it means but a quick review on the way I learned the typewriter keys and where they are, in which there weren't that many different characters like we have today on computers. Of course, it was easy to point out that the first typewriter I ever had was in 1971, and the machine was already about forty years old! Not only that, there was no key with "1" and "!" on it, and there was a key that featured the "3/4" symbol, and also that of what became a "checkmark." What a difference between yesterday's typewriters and today's computers!

And now, before I run short of ribbon on a typewriter I bought in June of 1996--just last year--the final chapter of its kind; for the record alone, I have had five typewriters in 26 years.

"F" and "J" keys: fjjfjjfjjfj
"A-S-D-K-L-;" keys: fdsajkl;fdsajkl;fdsajkl;
"H" key: jj hj hj jj hj hj jj hj hj
"U" key: uj uj us sud dusk us fuss
"E" key: ed ed he led he heed heel
"." key: ll .l .l ll .l .l l.l l.l
"Left Shift" key (capital letters): Hal Hal Hal Hal Hale had a sale.
"R" key: rf rf rf fur fur furl furl
"O" key: ol ol old so so sold sold
"C" key: cd cd cud cud cod cue cue
"Right Shift" key (capital letters): Alf has a cold. Sue cashed a
check for Cal Slade.
"T" key: tf tf to to the the to to
"I" key: ik ik if if is did is did
"W" key: ws ws who wow cow sow how
"G" key: gf gf got got rug rug tug
"N" key: nj nj and and run run can
"Z" key: za za size size haze haze
"P" key: p; p; pam cup lap rip top
"B" key: bf bf bug bug bog but fob
"," key: k, Ken, Len, and I work.
"Q" key: qa qa quo quit quit quick
"M" key: mj mj rim jam ham sum gum
"X" key: xs xs fix six fox six box
"Y" key: yj yj yes yet jay say hay
"V" key: vf vf have pave five move
"?" key: ?; ?; Is it? Is he next?
"1 (or l)" key: ll ll ll The ll men may go. (Alternate drill: ll
ll ll The ll men may go. This is the drill with the "1/!" key.)
"7" key: 7j 77 j7j 77 j7j 777 7j 7l 7j
"3" key: 3d 33 d3d 33 d3d 333 3d 3l 3d
"9" key: 9l 99 l9l 99 l9l 999 9l 9l 9l
"5" key: 5f 55 f5f 55 f5f 555 5f 5l 5f
"6" key: 6j 66 j6j 66 j6j 666 6j 6l 66
"2" key: 2s 22 s2s 22 s2s 222 2s 2l 22
"0" key: 0; 00 ;0; 10 10l 100 ;0 10 ;0
"4" key: 4f 44 f4f 44 f4f 444 4f 4l 4f
"8" key: 8k 88 k8k 88 k8k 888 8k 8l 88
"/" key: /; // ;/; // ;/; /// /; 2/3 2/3
"- " key: ;p; -; -; -; part-time work ;-;

IN THE BEGINNING...(continued)

"\$" key: \$f \$\$ f\$f \$f \$14 f4\$f \$f \$144
" ' " key: ' ' I'm fine! I'm glad to go!
(Alternate drill: ' ' I'm fine! I'm glad to go!)
":" key: ;; :: ::; We go at 10:15 a.m.
%" key: %f %% f%f %f 5%f 5% 5%f %f %f
"(" key: (1 ((1(1 (1 9(1 9(1((1((91
")" key:);)));); 0); 0);));)0;
" " " key: "Tom types well," Sue said.
_" key: He read The Meaning of Words.
#" key: #d ## d#d #d #33 d3#d #d #133
"&" key: &j && j&j 7&j &j& Howe & Long
"*" key: * * Type * for the reference.
"½/¼" key: ½; ½; ¼; ¼; Type 12½ and 16¼.
"\$/@" key: ¢ ¢ @ @ Use ¢ and @ in bills.

Special Keys Typing Drills:

(Footnotes): never admitted. "Man is not made for defeat," he said.

"A man can be destroyed but not defeated."¹

¹Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea (New York:

Charles Scribner's Sons, 1952), p. 114.

(Ellipsis . . .): Poetry is defined as "The embodiment in appropriate language of . . . high thought, imagination, or emotion. . . and adapted to arouse the feelings and emotions." It is usually rhythmical, usually metrical, but need not rhyme.

Ellipsis character: Poetry is "embodiment. . . of high thought. . . to arouse feelings."

Pounds (#) character: Parker & Younger quoted a price on 2,000# of #678-B at \$1.47 5/8 a lb.

Exclamation (!) character: The man exclaimed, "Incredible! I couldn't possibly do such a thing."

Superior figure character:

The manuscript read: "Authorities use the * or the superior figure."¹

Single quotes (' ') character: Harry wrote, "The speaker said, 'Poetry is the language of the soul.'"

Equals (=) key: Use = (equals) in the following mathematical problem:
160 x 8 = 1280.

Degrees (°) key: The freezing point of water is 32°F. and the boiling point is 212°F.

Feet/inches (' ") key: Use ' for feet and " for inches. Sue bought a rug that is 18'9" long.

Times/minus (x -) key: Use x for times and - for minus. What is the answer to 290 x 8 - 457? very

Insert (/) character: Most of the students in the class try/hard to learn to type well.

Plus (/) key: Type / (diagonal); backspace; then type - (hyphen) to make the / sign.

Division (+) key: Mary learned to type the : intersected by - for the division (+) sign.